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American's Soviet Trial Set Today

From News Dispatches

MURMANSK, U.S.S.R., Nov. 21—An American book salesman Newcomb Mott goes on trial Monday on charges of crossing the Soviet border illegally.

The official Tass news agency claimed today he crossed from Norway to the little border town of Boris Gleb in northern Russia despite warnings from Norwegians.

This summer Norwegians were permitted to cross the border without visas for brief tourist visits. It was previously believed, Mott, 27, of Sheffield, Mass., had joined a group of Norwegians and crossed the border without a visa but in good faith.

Mott will be defended in court by Soviet defense lawyer Boris Zolotukhin. He faces a sentence of up to three years if convicted.

Mott's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard S. Mott, arrived to attend the trial at the Murmansk Regional Court. Officials refused to let them see their son before the proceedings, according to a Soviet rule which forbids such pre-trial meetings.

Two Western newsmen were given permission to attend the trial.